WILLIAM WINTER.

ENGLISH RAMBLES, and other Fugitive Pieces, in Prose and Verse. By William Winter. 16mo, pp. 173. James R. Osgood & Co.

The ten chapters of a traveller's impressions which form about half this volume first appeared in the form of letters to The TRIBUNE; the three pieces commemorative of Longfellow were also written for this journal, and the poems which fill out the col-"have hitherto," as the author "been wanderers" in various resays, gious of periodical literature. Now that they are brought together in an attractive book they forcibly remind us how much beautiful and careful work is expended in the service of the modern newspaper, and what a fine literary quality belongs at any rate to the best of the brief essays, letters and verses which are laid every morning upon our breakfast tables, along with the news of politics and society, the courts and the markets. Mr. Winter's writings have not only the finish of style and dignity of thought which distinguish the productions of the genuine man of letters from those of the merely elever journalist, but they have a marked individuality which is not common in the daily press. The tendency of the newspaper, an insatiable and inconsiderate task-master, is to disperse the powers of its contributors, and unsettle their literary characteristics, by driving them to diverse and often uncongenial themes. But the bent of Mr. Winter's mind has been strong enough to resist this influence. In everything from his facile pen, poetry as well as prose, we discern the gentle and reflective temperament, the keen susceptibility, the affectionate heart, and the pensive yet not melancholy habit, which so charmed the readers of his earlier volumes. What he has said of the tender feeling, the soft and tranquil music, the reverent sentiment for the past and the dead, which characterized the spirit of Longfellow, might be said with little modification of his own spirit. And that it remains unchanged is the best possible proof of his complete sincerity. His style is not a fashion of speech, but the expression of a matured character. Mr. Winter's English Rambles are not like those

of any other traveller. He belongs, as it has been well said, to the traditions of Irving, but only because, like Irving, he saw the most lovable side of England, and took it fast to his heart. The mood in which he wanders by English hedgerows, traces the haunts of Shakespeare, explores historic tav-erns and churches, muses in the London streets, and paces the courts and silent thoroughfares by night, is peculiar to himself. At least we know of nothing like it in books. There are certain poetical aspects of England which are better presented in these fascinating pages than we have ever seen them elsewhere. The descriptions never degenerate into catalogues; they are the record of impressions rather than an inventory of objects; but whoever has been over the same ground will recognize the extraordinary truthfulness of the picture of the English country. Nobody could set forth as vividly, in a few striking phrases, the "glimpses of green tane and shining river, of dense copses that cast their cool shadow on the moist and gleauing emerald sod, of long white roads that stretch away like cathedral aisles and are lost beneath the leafy arches of elm and oak, of little church turrets embowered in ivy, of thatch cottages draped with roses "-nebody could set forth these beauties so vividly who had not deeply felt them. He writes out of a full heart.

The poems included in this volume are full of

the same delicate charm which irradiates his prose, They are often graceful and dainty, always imagi-native and suffused with feeling. "The Wrecker's Bell" and "Accomplices" show a dramatic force to which his taste does not often lead him, although readers of his previous volumes well know that he is master of it. An introspective mood is more common with him; and in this temper his felicitous and musical lines sing of love, friendship, trust and peace. The sincerity to which we have referred as a characteristic of his literary work in general is conspicuous in these records of personal feeling, and of course it gives them a strong hold upon the sympathies of the reader. Sincerity is also a marked quality in the occasional pieces, such as the fine tributes to Lengfellow, McCullough, Barrett and Warren. It is because his feeling is so real and his poetical conception of the occasion so natural and correct that Mr. Winter always succeeds in poems of this class, where failure is so common.

# MODERN ESSAYS.

PROSE MASTERPIECES, from Modern Escayists, 3 vols, 16mo, pp. vii., 325; 268; 326, G. P. Putnam's

The anonymous editor of these pretty volumes, in presenting specimens of the best writers of essays. English and American, from Irving to the present day, has attempted to illustrate the characteristics of the several authors, as well as to select fine examples of English prose. He has also undertaken to group the papers, as far as practicable, "according to the connection of their subjects or the closeness of their authors' intellectual kinship." In certain cases this last named purpose has been well carried out. For example, the essays on history by Carlyle, Macaulay and Fronde are happily placed together; and some other selections fall into an association which if less obvious is at any rate natural. This idea of classification, however, is not really important, and we suspect that it has now and then had an unfertunate influence the editor's choice—that he would have taken something better from Leigh Hunt than "The World of Books" if he had not been anxious to find a companion piece for Washington Irving's of ind a companion process for Washington Trumps, "The Matability of Licenstruct", controlled the specimen from 2 minutes and 1 "The Mutability of Literature"; and that the specimen from Sydney Smith has controlled the specimens from Landor. Landor's " Petition of the

gation, and polemics, and useful knowledge. The simple and delightful fancies of Irving, the quaint delicacy of Lamb, the composure of Emerson, the manly tenderness of Thackeray, the eloquence of Ruskin, the polished humor of Lowell, and the noble urbanity of Newman, belong to a literary period which has passed or is passing away. Nothing like the prose of these masters is cultivated at the present day. The new spirit, as we find it in contentious Stephen, inflamed Froude, angry Carlyle, and even in Matthew Arnold, whose fine taste is often betrayed by his critical and argumentative habit, is not favorable to the formation of a pure literary prose style.

#### WILLIAMS'S MIDDLE KINGDOM.

THE MIDDLE KINGDOM. A Survey of the Geography, Government, Literature, Social Life, Arts and History of the Chinese Empire and its Inhabitants. By S. Wells Williams, Ll.D. Revised edition, with illustrations and a new map of the Empire. In two volumes. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Few books are better entitled to a revised edition than Dr. Williams's "Middle Kingdom." For thirty-five years it remained at once the fullest, most accurate and most entertaining account of China, and though several ambitions works on the same subject have been printed during the past ten years, none of them surpassed this classic. But in thirty-five years so many changes have occurred. even in conservative China, that the most careful book must have stood in need of revision, and in fact Dr. Williams has found it necessary to increase the bulk of the original work about one-third, though he has sought to exclude all irrelevant and superfluous matter. Naturally the principal changes are connected with the revolutions of Chinese policy occurring during the past five-and-thirty years; and these have been so considerable, as regards the outside world, as to require thorough exposition. The author has not considered himself called upon to make any considerable modification of his original chapter on the Chinese census, alleging that the data for accurate calculations are not accessible, while the estimates of foreigners have of late years tended to approximate more closely than before to his own. A chapter is given to the Tai-ping Rebellion, and another to recent events in China. The chapters on Chinese literature and upon the natural history of the country are fuller than in the first edition. Many new illus-trations have been introduced, and especially should be noticed a new map of the Empire which appears to be very careful and accurate, though of course there must be much guess-work in any cartographic illustration of a country so imperfectly surveyed. The work in its new form comprises two large and handsome octavo volumes. The printers and publishers have done their part very creditably. In fact, the revised edition of the "Middle King-dom" is the most ambitions and the best executed work, typographically speaking, that has issued for a long time from American presses. From a literary standpoint it must be regarded as the best general work on China extant, and therefore as indispensable to the reader who wishes to obtain a comprehensive view of the wonderful country and people it treats of.

AMERICAN COLLEGES: Their Stadents and Work. By CHARLES F. THWING, 16mo. pp. 213. (C. P. Putnam's

This is a revised and enlarged edition of a practical and interesting little book which first appeared five years ago. Professor Thwing has made changes n nearly every page, has taken account of recent improvements in methods of instruction and courses of study, has brought down the statistical inform-ation to the latest dates, and has added three new chapters, on "Wealth and Endowment," "A Na-tional University," and "Wo\_au's Education." The figures presented in the first of these additions will probably surprise even those who have paid some attention to the subject. Professor Thwing does not favor the scheme for a National university, the obections to which he states very forcibly. The advorates of co-education will find strong support in the statements he has collected respecting the results of the system where it has thus far been tried.

ALICE, THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS, Etc. KATE FREILIGRATH-KROKER, (G. P. Putuam's Sons This is a volume of fairy plays for children. It is always difficult to say how far such productions meet, or fail to meet, the childish ideal. Certainly the delightful fun of "Alice" and "Through the Looking-Glass," ought to be within the scope of the average child's comprehension, and in fact experience has shown this to be the case. Whether these fantasies are adapted for dramatization, however, is quite another question, and one which we suppose can only be solved by an inspection of the pub-lisher's books at the end of the holiday season. The book is very neatly printed and bound.

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necessities of subsistence; and its prosperity is at a soil
which does not leave an abandance of leisure to accumutate knowledge in the ordinary manner. There is the
select European aninority which entireates various
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minority matches it. When Europeans in the interval
between elementary and scientific checation feel a taste
for knowledge stopping short of learning, they grafify it
by remaining longer at school, or proceeding to college,
of by a regular course of home reading. They who
study thus are a cincerity too, though a large inherity.
In the United States, it may almost be said that a major
ity occupy an analogous place in their facts for general
knowledge, and depend, not on schools or colleges of private study for its satisfaction, but on the lecturer. A
vasi multitude of American citizens, whose social equals
abroad ane ut city indifferent to intellectual researcies,
are eagerly bent upon being informed of the results, if
not the processes, in them all. They have an insatiable
curiosity, if only a limited knowledge. Chable to traverse the whole ground, they are recolved to us present
at the terminus. The subject may interest them directly
or indirectly. They are not always sure whether they
would be inclined to pursue n or hot. They require the
programme to be unfoided before them that they may
make up their minds whether they shall, so it were
subscribe on behalf of their posterity which may possibly care to follow the study.

be to use his influence to persuade it to enter political life more freely and frankly. The duty of educated and public-spirited citizens is to endeavor to win the nation to arbitrate between themselves and the rival minority, which treats the majority as a hermit crab treats an unoccupied shell.

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Travellers for France, Spain and Italy, Pyreoces, Pau Nice, &c., will save time and expense by taking this line.

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FROM PIER NO. 40 NORTH RIVER,
BOTHNIA Wednesday, Nov. 21, 11 a. m.
PAVONIA Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2 p. m.
SERVIA Wednesday, Dec. 5, 9:30 a. m.
SYTHIA Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2 p. m.
Cabin passage, 5:00, 580 and \$100.
Steerage tickets to and from all parts of Europe at very low
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Between New York and Havre.

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Paris on arrival of steamers. Basa-se through to Paris, through to Paris, AMERIQUE, Santelli, West. Nov. 28, 2 p. m. CANADA, Françoul West. Nov. 28, 2 p. m. ST. GERMAIN, Someoul West. Dec. 5 pa. m. ST. GERMAIN, at sept. in amounts to suit, on the Banque

Chekk AlN, Bonneau. West, Rec. 5, 9 a, m. Checks payable at surts, in amounts to suit, on the Banque Transathantique of Faris. For freight and passage apply to LOUIS DE BEBLAN, Agent, No. 6 Bowling Green.

GUION LINE.

ENITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.

ARIZONA Tuesday, Nov. 29, 9a. m.
N. VADA.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 5p. m.
N. VADA.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 5p. m.
N. VADA.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 230 p. m.
N. VADA.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 230 p. m.
N. VADA.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 230 p. m.
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 230 p. m.
Ter Thes steamers are built of iron, with wasertight compartments, and are furnished with every requisite to make the passage across the Atlantic both safe and agreeable, having also experienced surgeon, attended to the safe and enforce on each steamer. The staternous are all upper deck, thus insuring those greatest of all luxuries at sea, perfect ventilation and light.

light. Cabin passage (according to stateroom), \$60, \$80 and \$100. ntermediate, #10. Steerage at low rates. OFFICE, NO. 29 BROADWAY. WILLIAMS & GUION. INMAN ROYAL MAIL LINE STEAMERS
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL
CITY OF BERLIN. Saturday, Nov. 23, 1 p. m.
CITY OF MONTREAL. Shurday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m.
CITY OF (HUSTER). Shurday, Dec. 8, 11 a. m.
From Pier 36 (new number), North River.
CABIN PASSAGE, 800, 850 and \$100. Intermediate, \$40,
STEERAGE, from the Old Country, \$21. from New York,
\$28.

\$28.
For passage, &c., apply to the INMAN STEAMSHIP CO.,
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Limited, 31 and 33 Broadway, N. Y.
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CITY OF PARA sails Weinesday, Nov. 21, noon.

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From San Francisco, 1st and framanasts.

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CITY OF PEKING sails Toursday, Nov. 22, noon.

Excursion tickets between San Francisco and Vocabana as

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H. J. BULLAY, Superintendent, RED STAR LINE.—For Antwerp and Paris, sailing from New-York and Antwerp every Sainuday WESTERIN LAND.—Saturday, November 21, 1 p. m. SAIDORS, December 1 a. m. SAIDORS, December 1 a. m. SAIDORS, P. 620 10 575; excursion, \$110 to \$125. Second cabin, \$55; excursion, \$100; steerage, outward, \$26; prepaid, \$20; PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents, 55 Broadway.

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